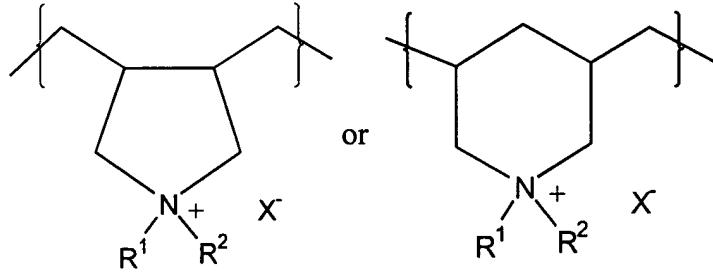


Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 24-55. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

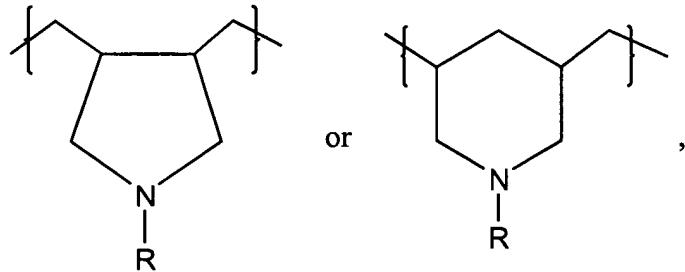
Claim Listing

1. (Original) A method for removing bile acids from a patient comprising the step of administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a poly(diallylamine) polymer wherein more than 10% of the amino nitrogen atoms are substituted by a hydrophobic substituent.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is a homopolymer.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is a copolymer.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic substituent is a normal or branched C₂-C₂₄-alkyl group.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the polymer comprises a repeat unit of the general formula



wherein R² is hydrogen, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₂₄-alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted arylalkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R¹ is a substituted or unsubstituted C₃-C₂₄-alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted arylalkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and X⁻ is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein X⁻ is a conjugate base of an acid selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, methanesulfonic acid, acetic acid, formic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, succinic acid, malonic acid, sulfuric acid, L-glutamic acid, L-aspartic acid, pyruvic acid, mucic acid, benzoic acid, glucuronic acid, oxalic acid, ascorbic acid and acetylglycine.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein R¹ is a normal or branched C₃-C₂₄-alkyl group which is substituted by an amino group, an ammonium group, an amido group, a hydroxyl group, a sulfone group, a sulfoxide group or an alkoxy group.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein R¹ is an alkyl group selected from the group consisting of hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl and tetradecyl.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein R² is methyl and R¹ is selected from the group consisting of octyl, decyl and dodecyl.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is characterized by a repeat unit of the general formula



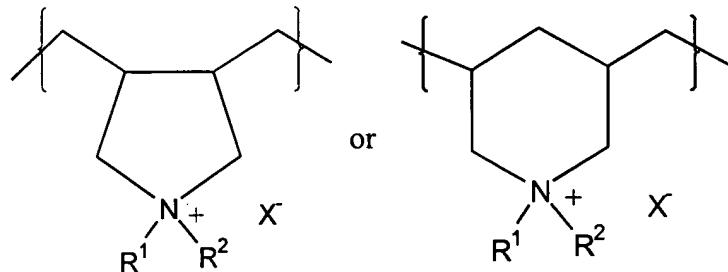
wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein R is a C₃-C₂₄-alkyl group.

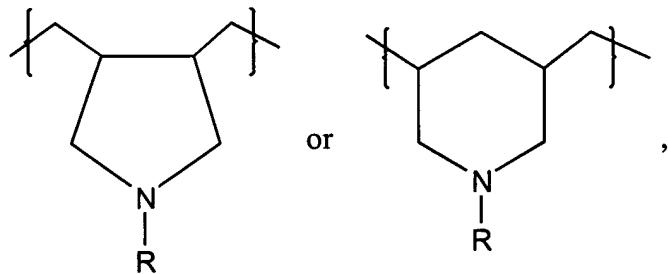
12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the alkyl group is selected from the group consisting of hexyl, heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl and tetradecyl.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the alkyl group is substituted by an amino group, an ammonium group, an amido group, a hydroxyl group, a sulfoxide group, a sulfone group or an alkoxy group.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the polymer comprises a first monomer of the general formula



wherein R¹ is hydrogen, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₂₄-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; R² is a substituted or unsubstituted C₃-C₂₄-alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; and X⁻ is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion; and a second monomer of the general formula



wherein R is hydrogen, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is a crosslinked polymer.
16. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein the polymer is crosslinked by a multifunctional co-monomer.
17. (Original) The method of Claim 16 wherein the multifunctional co-monomer is selected from the group consisting of diacrylates, triacrylates, tetraacrylates, dimethacrylates, diacrylamides, dimethacrylamides, diallylacrylamides and polyvinylarenes.
18. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the multifunctional comonomer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol diacrylate, propylene glycol diacrylate, butylene glycol diacrylate, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, butylene glycol dimethacrylate, methylene bis(methacrylamide), ethylene bis(acrylamide), ethylene bis(methacrylamide), ethylidene bis(acrylamide), ethylidene bis(methacrylamide), bisphenol A dimethacrylate, bisphenol A diacrylate, pentaerythritol tetraacrylate, trimethylolpropane triacrylate and divinylbenzene.
19. (Original) The method of Claim 16 wherein the multifunctional comonomer is a multifunctional diallylamine.
20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the multifunctional diallylamine is a bis(diallylamo)alkane or a bis(diallylalkylammonio)alkane.
21. (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the multifunctional diallylamine is 1,10-bis(diallylmethylammonio)decane dibromide.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein the polymer is crosslinked by a bridging unit selected from the group consisting of straight chain or branched, substituted or unsubstituted alkylene groups, diacylalkylene groups, diacylarene groups and alkylene bis(carbamoyl) groups.
23. (Original) The method of Claim 22 wherein the bridging units are selected from the group consisting of -(CH₂)_n- , wherein n is an integer from about 2 to about 20; -CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-; -C(O)CH₂CH₂C(O)-; -CH₂-CH(OH)-O-(CH₂)_m-O-CH(OH)-CH₂- , wherein m is 2 to about 4; -C(O)-(C₆H₂(COOH)₂)-C(O)-; and -C(O)NH(CH₂)_pNHC(O)-, wherein p is an integer from about 2 to about 20.

Claims 24-55 (Canceled)